



## **IFES Quarterly Report: January 1, 2005 – March 31, 2005**

### **Burundi: Electoral Support for the Transition**

**USAID Cooperative Agreement No. DGC A-00-01-00004-00,**

**Associate Award No. 623-A-00-04-00081-00**

**Project Period: September 1, 2004 – August 31, 2005**

**Total Budget: \$1,800,000 Expenses Recorded to Date: \$427,330**

### **RESULTS SUMMARY**

- Training of Trainers - 68 trainers to train polling station presidents (January 12-13, 2005)
- Training of 6034 polling station presidents in 17 provinces (February 14-19, 2005)
- Training of Trainers for Basic Election Administration Training (“BEAT”) phase I (January 24-February 4, 2005)
- “Lessons Learned from the preparation of the constitution referendum” workshop (March 10, 2005)
- 176 members of the National and Provincial Electoral Commissions attended BEAT Phase II (March 7-18, 2005)
- IFES-DC Africa Program Director, Christian Hennemeyer and Central Africa Program Manager, Carole Kraemer visited IFES-Burundi (January 23-26, 2005)

### **POLITICAL BACKGROUND**

January 5<sup>th</sup> marked the end of the validation period for registration information, and the printing of the preliminary lists of electors began on January 6. In accordance with the Electoral Act, the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) announced a 10-day posting period during which citizens would have the opportunity to review the list and assure that their names appear correctly. Following the 10-day posting period, there was a 5-day period in which the complaints commissions ruled regarding omissions or deletions to the names on the list of electors. Due to technical difficulties experienced in the printing phase, the posting period did not occur until January 14-24. The 1993 Election Act Article 11.2 states that a minimum of 35 days must be provided between the posting of the lists and the vote on the referendum, indicating that the technical difficulties experienced throughout the voter registry period have continuously delayed the elections timetable.

On January 6, the President of Burundi requested that the Constitutional Court rule on his authority to amend the pending constitution which was to be voted on in the constitutional referendum, according to Article 298 of the Arusha Accords. The following day, the Constitutional Court ruled in favor of the President's power to amend the said constitution based on the fact that the constitution was in fact in effect. The reaction of the Burundian political parties was mixed, with certain parties voicing concerns and others not responding to the announcement. The Zuma released a statement on January 26<sup>th</sup>, declaring that the regional authorities were against any modifications to the constitution before the referendum. The international community backed this statement.

In mid-January the CENI officially announced February 28 as the date for the constitutional referendum. Shortly thereafter the President announced that he would not be a candidate in the 2005 Presidential Elections and would not be amending the constitution of Burundi. In early February the Draft Election Law and the Draft Communal Law were sent to the National Assembly for review and approval prior to the referendum. The CENI had recommended that the article dealing with the campaign period be amended thus allowing 7 days for the campaign period versus the 15-day period in the Act. This recommendation was made in the hope of shortening the length of time between the other elections in 2005, but was not adopted. The National Assembly used the full time allotted to them to modify the electoral law before submitting it to the Senate.

The National Assembly voted in favor of the new Electoral Law at midnight on March 11, and the Law was forwarded to the Senate for approval on March 14. Using the full 30 days allotted to the Senate, it approved some of the amendments and made approximately 60 additional changes, requiring that the Law be re-sent to the National Assembly to begin the approval process again. The new law must be reviewed by the Constitutional Court before it can be promulgated by the President.

The official electoral lists were completed on February 18 and voter registration cards were distributed throughout the country the week prior to the referendum. The referendum was successful, generally well-run, and peaceful, with members of the Diplomatic Corps acting as unofficial observers. National observers were present in only 5% of the 6000+ polling stations. The results of the referendum were sent to the Constitutional Court on March 10<sup>th</sup> and indicated the following: 90.04% YES; 7.87% NO; 2.09% NIL; and 89.81% of eligible voters participated.

As of the completion of the second quarter, no official calendar has been set for the remaining five elections in Burundi that must be held in 2005. The CENI continues to move forward, however, in identifying suppliers for election material in preparation for the next designated election phase.

## **PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

During this quarter the IFES-Burundi office, under Chief of Party Michelle Momy, successfully carried out the series of Basic Election Administration Trainings (“BEAT”) designed and prepared during the last quarter. As a guide to good poll stations management, the BEAT training is a key element in the organization of credible elections

In collaboration with the CENI, an initial Training of Trainers (TOT) forum was held January 12 and 13<sup>th</sup>. The 68 trainers, two from each (CEPI) Provincial Commission (34) and 34 civic volunteers selected by IFES were tasked with training all 6000+ polling stations presidents throughout the country. In turn, the polling station presidents would train his/her four (4) Election Day workers.

The TOT held on January 12-13 focused primarily on the role and responsibilities of polling station presidents. Using the poll official guide developed by the CENI as well as voting simulations and role play, the participants learned how the voting process would evolve at the base level. Trainers were given the opportunity to handle the election material and work with draft copies of the actual forms that would be used on Election Day. Observers from ONUB, UNDP and the CENI were present throughout the training.

To supplement hands-on training, BEAT international trainer Bill Chilvers arrived on January 17 to coach a dozen core trainers on the methods of BEAT training, a participatory method aimed at instilling professional standards among poll workers. Training was conducted January 24 through February 4, 2005. The BEAT phase I training prepared trainers for the subsequent training of the 200 CENI and CEPI election administrators as well as the governors from 17 Provinces. A draft report on the BEAT Phase I training was prepared and submitted to Washington

The IFES-Burundi COP attended this 10-day training forum and is now qualified as a BEAT International Trainer. IFES Burundi can now boast of having a BEAT francophone team of trainers available to provide training in other francophone countries when needed.

The 34 teams of trainers were deployed on February 13<sup>th</sup> in all 17 Provinces. A total of 6034 polling stations presidents attended the one-day training. The training took place during the week of February 14-18, the teams returned on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. A draft report of this training was prepared and submitted to Washington and UDAID Burundi. The trainings took place successfully, with no major incidents to report.

BEAT Phase II trainings were the focus of March programming. Trainers were deployed to the four regions of the country, Bururi, Gitega, Ngozi and Bujumbura, March 13 - March 25. A total of eight 5-day training sessions were organized, training 200 people. With a 96% participation level, the trainings were successful, and participants included all 17 provincial governors. Trainings in each region were observed by a member of IFES staff. The draft report is available and will be sent to DC at the end of this month.

In addition to the BEAT trainings, on March 10 IFES-Burundi hosted a one-day workshop following the February 28 constitutional referendum entitled “Lessons Learned in the Organization of the Constitutional Referendum.” A total of 61 participants were present including members of CENI, CEPI, IFES, ONUB, UNOPS, EISA, COSOMA (national observers), security forces, media, military, gendarmerie, national police, territorial administrators, Ministry of the Interior and Conseil National de la Communication. Participants were divided into four groups following a panel discussion to debate the strengths and weaknesses of the referendum preparation. A draft report title lessons learned from the February 28<sup>th</sup> referendum in Burundi was prepared and copies were given to IFES DC, USAID and workshop participants.

During this quarter IFES-Burundi Chief of Party Michelle Momy continued to act as a technical advisor to the CENI, regularly meeting with the CENI president to discuss the development of a realistic electoral calendar, potential challenges to training schedules and technical aspects of the electoral calendar. In addition to close collaboration with the ONUB, Ms. Momy met regularly with other members of the international community (including EU and UNOPS) and local nongovernmental leaders, as well as providing regular briefings to American embassy staff on the organizational capacity of the CENI and their preparation for the referendum and successive events. During their 5-day visit, IFES-DC Africa Program Director, Christian Hennemeyer and Central Africa Program Manager, Carole Kraemer met with the US embassy CENI, ONUB, DFID, EU, Search for Common Ground, UNDP, Global Rights and others.

In its capacity as technical advisor, IFES-Burundi accepted to purchase 17 fax machines for the provincial commission offices. UNOPS will be responsible for the installation of land lines and assume the cost of communications.

#### **ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT QUARTER**

- IFES will host a one-day training session titled “Managing the media” on April 28. The CENI commissioners and some members of CEPI will attend the training in Bujumbura.
- IFES will hold a Training of Trainers for the 34 CEPI trainers to bring them up to speed on the new Electoral Law and the new Communal Law that will be the basis of the next five sets of elections scheduled in 2005.
- IFES will elaborate a training guide and support materials for the training of newly named Communal Election Commission members. The training of the 650 members will take place mid-May.
- IFES will participate on the technical committee with CENI and ONUB, who is presently elaborating a new guide for polling station presidents – the guide will serve as one of the main training aids, as well as a tool for civic education.
- IFES will be printing 12,000 copies of the new election act, 10,000 copies of the new communal law, 10,000 copies of the new constitution and 10,000 copies of the new polling station president’s guide. Copies will be provided for all polling stations, the commissions, and will be made available to national and international observers.